

OBITUARY NOTICES

R. A. Q. O'MEARA

D.S.C., M.D., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H.

Professor R. A. Q. O'Meara, formerly professor of experimental medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, died on 5 December. He was 71.

Robert Allen Quain O'Meara was born in 1903 at Skibbereen, County Cork, and educated at Clongoswood College and Trinity College, Dublin, graduating in medicine in 1927. He was awarded a Rockefeller fellowship in public health and studied for a time at Leeds. While holding this fellowship he introduced his modification of the Voges-Proskauer reaction which is now used throughout the world in water analysis and bacterial taxonomy. In 1938, at the request of the Medical Research Council of Ireland, he relinquished his position with the Wellcome Foundation laboratories in England and returned to Dublin to take up the study of virulent diphtheria, which was the cause of many deaths among children at that time. In 1940 he was appointed deputy to the professor of bacteriology and preventive medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, and the following year was made a Fellow of the college. In 1942 he was appointed as the first occupant of the chair of experimental medicine at Trinity College. In 1945 he became professor of pathology, bacteriology, and preventive medicine in addition. He relinquished this professorship in 1964, but retained the chair of experimental medicine.

Allen O'Meara was consultant pathologist at St. Luke's Hospital since its foundation, and his opinion on many difficult histological findings was respected by all who were privileged to work with him. He was director of the Trinity Research Laboratory at St. Luke's. His study of fibrins and cancer achieved international recognition. He was a member of the European Human Tumour Research Committee. An external examiner to the Royal College of Surgeons for many years, he was president of the Royal Irish Academy of Medicine and a senior member of the Medical Research Council of Ireland. He retired in 1974, remaining honorary pathologist to St. Luke's. By his sudden death Ireland has lost an outstanding pathologist and cancer researcher. His first wife died in 1941 and he is survived by his second wife and by two daughters and a son.—M.J.O'H.

J. P. HERON

T.D., M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S.Ed.

Mr. J. P. Heron, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Liverpool, died suddenly at his home on 6 January. He was 65.

James Porter Heron was born at Portrush, Northern Ireland, on 18 March 1909, and educated at Edinburgh University, where he

graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1932. Three years later he took the F.R.C.S.Ed. and was in general practice for a time in the Wirral, on Merseyside. At the outbreak of war, having been a Territorial, he was in the R.A.M.C. and spent most of his service life as a surgical specialist with a field general hospital in the Middle East. On demobilization he returned to Liverpool and took up orthopaedics, becoming M.Ch.Orth., in 1946. One of his early appointments was to Aintree Tuberculosis Hospital, where he built up a considerable experience in the surgical treatment of spinal tuberculosis, using a combination of inlay and onlay autogenous bone grafts. He later was appointed consultant orthopaedic surgeon to Broad Green Hospital, Newsham General Hospital, and St. Helen's Hospital, where he continued to work until his retirement in May 1974.

Jim Heron was a staunch churchman and his religious background gave him a sense of loyalty and devotion to his patients that would have been difficult to equal. An avid reader, he was a most erudite man who possessed a seemingly endless fund of stories, his fine sense of humour and beautiful turn of phrase making him splendid company. As a surgeon he was extremely neat. He was a joy to watch, particularly when operating on the shoulder joint, and some of his work was years ahead of his time. To the many trainees who came to him from all over the world he was a benevolent father figure. He taught them well and extended to them the most generous hospitality. A keen sportsman, he had captained his university golf team. His enthusiasm for football was such that he acted as honorary orthopaedic surgeon to a first division soccer club and two rugby league clubs for many years, often rearranging his holidays to avoid clashing with club fixtures. He was also an enthusiastic swimmer and gardener, and to everything he showed the same interest and dedication that he did to his professional work. He was loved by patients and staff alike and was a wonderful friend. Mr. Heron is survived by his wife and a son and daughter.—J.D.

K. FAWSETT

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Dr. K. Fawsett, consultant ophthalmic surgeon to the Reading area, died at Newbury on 3 December after repeated attacks of coronary thrombosis. He was 64.

Kenneth Fawsett was born on 3 January 1910 and educated at St. Paul's School and St. Thomas's Hospital, where he qualified in 1932. After an appointment as ophthalmic house surgeon he went into general practice at Newbury, Berkshire. Some time before the second world war he joined the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, so that he was called up

at the outbreak of hostilities. He served in the Middle East and attained the rank of wing commander. It was during this period that he really became interested in ophthalmology and with the encouragement of Keith Lyle gained some useful experience. At the end of the war, instead of returning to his practice, he decided to make ophthalmology his career. He was appointed to the resident staff at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, now Moorfields, and after going through the house took the D.O.M.S. in 1946. Returning to Newbury, he became responsible for all the ophthalmic work of the district, including surgery, with charge of beds at Newbury Hospital. Later he became consultant ophthalmic surgeon to the Reading area and a respected member of the team based on the Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading.

Ken worked extremely hard, yet always maintained a high standard, and he was a very sound, reliable opinion. He had a natural charm and was highly thought of by his patients and by the general practitioners whom he served. In spite of an attack of poliomyelitis as a child, he enjoyed games. A member of the Thames Rowing Club, he was also a keen golfer. When on holiday he liked walking, and it was on a recent trip to Wales that he suffered his last thrombosis, from which he never made a proper recovery. He is survived by his wife and three children.—E.W.D.

T.K.L. writes: I was fortunate to have Ken Fawsett as one of my ophthalmic trainees in the R.A.F. in the Middle East. He took to ophthalmology with amazing speed, thanks to his previous experience in general practice, and rapidly became a most reliable clinician, noted for the clarity and neatness of his notes, his kind and sympathetic approach to every patient, and, what was perhaps his greatest asset, a perfectly delightful sense of humour.

W. A. THOMPSON-HILL

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. W. A. Thompson-Hill, formerly in general practice at Worthing, Sussex, died at his home in Jersey on 7 December. He was 64.

William Arthur Thompson-Hill was born of a medical family on 3 January 1910, his father being in practice at Llanrwst, North Wales. Educated at Friars School, Bangor, and Liverpool College, he qualified at Liverpool University in 1936. After house appointments at Liverpool Royal Hospital South he started to study orthopaedics, but in 1937 decided to join the Royal Air Force. Shortly after the outbreak of war in 1939 he was posted to France and took part in the evacuation. His subsequent service was in England, mostly in the Pembroke Dock

area, which suffered much bombing. In 1943 his father died and he had to leave the R.A.F. to take over the practice at Llanrwst. Towards the end of 1946 he moved to Worthing, where he spent the next 22 years in general practice. He became very well known in the town and was well loved by his patients. Outside medicine he was a keen golfer, becoming captain of Worthing Golf Club in 1957. He was also a keen fisherman. In 1968 owing to ill health he was forced to retire, and he chose Jersey as having the most suitable climate. There he continued to be associated with the profession so far as possible, being concerned with the R.A.F. Benevolent Institution and the British Legion and with other societies. His last years were dogged by ill health and he was fortunate in having the support of his devoted wife. She and his two sons survive him.—C.H.

J. A. WILSON

M.B., CH.B.

Dr. J. A. Wilson, who was formerly in general practice at Pleasley and Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, died on 10 December. He was 77.

John Alexander Wilson was born at Glasgow on 20 May 1897 and educated at Glasgow High School and Glasgow University. His medical studies were interrupted by service in the R.A.M.C. and he was wounded in France. Returning to Glasgow, he graduated in medicine in 1924. After various posts he went to Pleasley in 1925 as a locum. He succeeded to the practice the following year and continued to practise in the area until his retirement in 1972.

John Wilson was a conscientious and diligent general practitioner and was greatly respected by his patients. He had a great number of interests, being at various times chairman of the local division of the B.M.A., captain of Sherwood Forest Golf Club, and chairman of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club. He was president of many local clubs and societies and was keenly interested in the St. John Ambulance Brigade. His service to the brigade was acknowledged by his appointment as a serving brother in 1957. Of a retiring disposition, he was most at home among his many friends on the golf course and in the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club, and his passing is mourned by a large number of patients and friends in the district. Dr. Wilson is survived by his wife and two sons.—A.L.M.

D. O. CLARK

M.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Mr. D. O. Clark, formerly E.N.T. surgeon to Queen Alexandra Memorial Hospital, Weston-super-Mare, died on 13 December. He was 67.

Dennis Owen Clark was born on 17 August 1907 and educated at Eltham College, where he obtained exemption from the first M.B. and an entrance scholarship to St. Thomas's Hospital. He graduated in 1931 and took the F.R.C.S. the following year. In 1933 he joined a practice at Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, and in 1938 also became an honorary assistant surgeon at

Queen Alexandra Memorial Hospital. During the second world war he was appointed M.B.E. for his courageous work in an air raid. This was in 1942, immediately before he joined the R.A.M.C., in which he served for four years and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1946, after demobilization, he left general practice to devote all his time to consulting surgical work in the hospital. He continued to develop a specialized department in E.N.T. work and was able during the next 25 years to achieve considerable success. He initiated a new service in which help was taken to the elderly deaf in their own homes. He gave devoted service to the St. John Ambulance Association, which he joined in 1937, reaching high rank in the county and national organizations.

Mr. Clark is survived by his wife and three children, to whom he was devoted. Their loss will be mitigated by memories of his wonderfully courageous, determined, and warmhearted life.—K.R.

M. C. SHARRARD

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.

Dr. M. C. Sharrard, who was in general practice at Lincoln, died on 14 December. He was 44.

Melvin Clifford Sharrard was born at Lincoln on 3 June 1930 and educated at Lincoln School and Sheffield University, where he qualified in 1955. At the university he was captain of the bridge team. He worked at Chesterfield Royal Hospital and in 1957 joined the Royal Air Force as a medical officer. In 1959 he worked at George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton, took the diploma in obstetrics, and then joined the practice of his aunt and uncle at Lincoln. After their retirement he continued singlehanded until his final illness.

Dr. Sharrard was chairman of the Lincoln Local Medical Committee, becoming chairman of the North Lincolnshire District Medical Committee on the recent re-organization. He was vice-chairman of the full Lincolnshire Local Medical Committee and a member of the Lincolnshire Family Practitioner Committee. His many friends both inside and outside the medical profession will remember Melvin for his cheerfulness, kindness, and sincerity. He continued to play football until recent years and remained a keen bridge player. He was very much a family man and showed great courage and fortitude during the last few months of his life. He is survived by his wife and two young children.—J.S.F.

M. J. KEATING

M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., M.R.C.G.P.

Dr. M. J. Keating, who was in general practice at Hartlepool, died suddenly on 27 December, just after finishing his evening surgery. He was 58.

Michael Joseph Keating was born at Cork on 29 March 1916 and graduated in medicine there in 1940. He then went to Sunderland, where in the Accident and Orthopaedic Hospital he gained experience in traumatic surgery during the air raids on that town. From Sunderland he joined the R.A.M.C.

and served with a field ambulance in the Burma campaign, during which he was wounded by a mine. In 1946 he went into general practice at Hartlepool, serving also as a member of the local orthopaedic and accident team.

An all-round sportsman, his main activities as a student had been rugby and boxing, and he was no mean performer with rod and gun. In recent years his main sporting interest was the health and fitness of West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club, whose members owe him a special debt of gratitude. He was also a founder member of the British Sports Medicine Association and officiated at the Commonwealth Games at Edinburgh a few years ago. He was president of the Hartlepool and District Irish Society on three occasions, and in 1960 he was appointed a magistrate on the local bench, continuing to serve as such until the time of his death. Dr. Keating is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.—R.L.S.

G. V. UNSWORTH

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. G. V. Unsworth, who was in general practice in Oxfordshire, died suddenly on 28 December while at the wheel of his car. He was 34.

Gerald Vincent Unsworth was born at Westhoughton, Lancashire, on 26 September 1940 and qualified from St. Mary's Hospital, London, in 1966. After house appointments at Harold Wood, the Canadian Red Cross, and Upton hospitals he went into rural general practice in a three-man group centred on the village of Deddington, Oxfordshire.

Gerry Unsworth lived life to the full. He was always a gifted sportsman and will be remembered with affection by many Mary's men as much for his hard play on the rugby field as for his good company off it. Climbing was a passion which he kept up after his rugby-playing days were over. There were many memorable trips to "the hut" and the Pen-y-Gwryd in Snowdonia, and he was secretary and founder member of the Medical Mountaineers. He had no time for pomposity in his relationships with his patients. The vast number of tributes received from them bear witness to the deep affection they felt for him, and his premature death has saddened friends and patients alike. He is survived by his wife and two young sons.—R.L.L.S., P.J.F.

Z. M. HAMILTON ROSS

M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.ED.

Dr. Z. M. Hamilton Ross, who was formerly in general practice at Sunderland and a consultant surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, died on 28 December. He was 89.

Zachary Macaulay Hamilton Ross was born on 16 January 1885 and educated at the Royal High School, Edinburgh, and Edinburgh University, graduating in medicine in 1906 after a distinguished undergraduate career. He undertook a number of voyages as a ship's surgeon and in 1908 began his association with the Royal Infirmary, holding a series of posts in rotation—in fact he held every available resident

post in the hospital over a period of years. He then entered general practice in the Fulwell area of Sunderland. During the first world war he served in the R.A.M.C., mostly in Egypt. In 1919 he was appointed assistant surgeon to the infirmary and in 1920 took the F.R.C.S.Ed. He was elected to the full staff in 1922 and held the position until he retired in 1947. In addition to his hospital work he carried on a busy general practice, from which he ultimately retired in 1960. As a practitioner he was outstanding. He knew his patients personally and their families and felt for them acutely in their hour of distress. A good diagnostician and painstaking surgeon, his association with the infirmary was a happy one. He attended many medical families, who were indebted to him for his professional care. He had been chairman of the Sunderland Division of the B.M.A., chairman of the finance committee of the Royal Infirmary, and a vice-chairman of the Sunderland hospital management committee. His main hobbies were walking and reading and he remained always a fervent Scot. Affectionately known as "Hammy" by his colleagues and patients, he will be sadly missed by us all. He is survived by his son, who is a surgeon, and a daughter.—A.A.M.N.

W. CRAIG
M.B., CH.B.

Dr. W. Craig, who was formerly in general practice at Halifax, Yorkshire, died on 7 January. He was 78.

William Craig was born at Glasgow on 5 May 1896 and entered Glasgow University as a medical student in 1914. However, with the outbreak of the first world war he enlisted in November that year in the 9th Highland Light Infantry, serving as a private soldier at Gallipoli and in the Middle East. He was mentioned in dispatches and was a proud holder of the Mons Star. In 1916 he was commissioned into the 17th Punjabi Regiment, the Indian Army, serving in Afghanistan. In 1919 he returned to Glasgow University to resume his medical studies and graduated in 1923. After two years' assistantship at Manchester he began general practice at Halifax and remained there in the same practice for 49 years. In 1936 he was president of the Glasgow Graduates' Association of Yorkshire.

Dr. Craig's main hobby was hill-walking in Scotland and in the Yorkshire Dales. On one occasion he and two colleagues took H. V. Morton through the Lairig Ghru Pass in the Cairngorms, and the heavy rain

did not prevent an enthusiastic account. An inveterate walker, he preferred to do many of his house calls on foot. He was devoted to his practice and was still working at the time of his sudden death. For 36 years he was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife and four children, two of whom are doctors.—W.S.R.C.

A. WERTHEIMER
M.D.

Dr. A. Wertheimer, who was formerly in general practice at Rochdale, Lancashire, died at Ithaca, New York, on 24 December. He was 75.

Alois Wertheimer was born in Vienna on 2 April 1899 and educated at Vienna University, where he graduated M.D. in 1926 and then practised in Austria. In 1938 he went to England as a refugee from the Nazi régime, took the M.B., Ch.B. Leeds in 1941, and practised at Rochdale, becoming a British citizen in 1947. He retired in 1965 and lived at Oxford before going to New York to live with his daughter, who survives him.

NEWS AND NOTES

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Influenza Now

The following notes are compiled by the Epidemiological Research Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service from reports by public health and hospital laboratories in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

The findings of serological surveys suggest that many people in Britain are probably susceptible to the current strains of influenza A and B viruses. Two variants of influenza A virus, represented by the A/Port Chalmers/1/73 (H₃N₂) and A/Scotland/840/74 (H₃P₂) strains, and two of influenza B virus, represented by the B/Hong Kong/5/73 and B/England/847/73 strains, need to be considered.

The A/Port Chalmers/1/73 variant was first isolated in New Zealand in 1973. The variant spread to Britain and largely replaced the A/England/42/72 virus that had been responsible for most of the A influenza in the 1972-3 winter. Despite this antigenic change the influenza outbreak that developed last winter (1973-4) was not large, and at the beginning of the present winter serological tests showed that about 65% of the population of Britain lacked what is considered to be a protective level of antibody in their serum.

The A/Scotland/840/74 variant was

isolated in the east of Scotland in December 1974, where it had caused localized outbreaks of influenza. This strain shows a "drift" in its antigenic structure from that of the A/Port Chalmers strain, so that human antibodies against the latter are less able to neutralize the A/Scotland strain. Correspondingly, serological surveys suggest that almost 80% of the population are susceptible to A/Scotland strains.

Influenza B viruses change their antigenic properties less frequently than A viruses, but a new variant was recognized in 1972. The new strains were designated B/Hong Kong/5/72. Last winter (1973-4) this strain was responsible for some of the B influenza, and at the end of the winter probably about 5% of the population had experienced the infection, either clinically or subclinically, and had become immune. Consequently at the beginning of this winter (1974-5) about 95% of the population were probably susceptible.

In Britain the new variant was responsible for only some of the B influenza last winter. Much of it was due to a strain intermediate in its antigenic structure between the old and the new B strains and was designated B/England/847/73. At the beginning of this winter (1974-5) about 80% of the population were probably susceptible to its attack.

What does the current position presage for influenza this winter? It might be expected from the antibody findings that epidemics of both A and B influenza should occur. But the population last winter (1973-4) had even less immunity, and the influenza outbreaks were not large. Evidently the level of population immunity is only one factor in determining the severity of influenza outbreaks, which must be affected by other ill-understood factors, such as the possible virulence of the virus and the severity of the weather conditions. So far this winter there has been relatively little true influenza, though acute respiratory illness due to other viruses has not been uncommon. An increase in the number of infections has occurred in the last two to three weeks, but the numbers have not been great.

The vaccines at present available contain both the A/Port Chalmers/1/73 and the B/Hong Kong/5/73 antigens. There is every reason to expect that they should stimulate an excellent antibody response against the homologous strains, and also that they should induce adequate protection against the A/Scotland and intermediate B strains. These vaccines should therefore provide valuable protection for patients with chronic bronchitis and other persons at special risk from an attack of influenza.